

## Improvements in court service represent untold story of creativity, hard work

*By Chief Justice Elizabeth A. Weaver*

**H**ere are three things I believe with all my heart:

- There are no finer judges anywhere than the judges of Michigan's one court of justice.
- There are no public employees more dedicated than the people who serve in Michigan's court system.
- Michigan's courts belong to the people and exist to serve their needs.

These truths are supported by evidence. Since I became chief justice, numerous judges have come forward to express their desire to move their courts forward in terms of public service. Many of their staff have expressed the same. They all continue a long tradition in Michigan courts. Challenges are met with creative thinking and hard work. The focus, ultimately, is on improved public service.

There is an untold story here, the story of judges, court administrators, and those who work with them striving to do what is right by the citizens they serve. That

*See IMPROVEMENTS, page 2*



The Michigan Supreme Court's goals for the judiciary:

Fairness  
Accessibility  
Accountability  
Effectiveness  
Responsiveness  
Independence

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## Improvements in court service represent untold story of creativity, hard work

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means providing a fair, impartial, unbiased, timely, and thorough review of their cases in an efficient manner within a user friendly court.

Let's be fair to ourselves. Over the past five years, we have taken great strides in improving court performance. Solutions have been developed, locally and at the state level, to serve the public better. We are learning to move dockets faster, expand the availability of helpful information, and enable citizens to handle more of their own affairs in court.

But let us also be honest with ourselves. The work is not yet done. Perceptions linger among the public nationwide that courts are sometimes too slow and expensive to use, that legal language is confusing, that citizens are sometimes treated brusquely, particularly when they answer the call for jury service. Those perceptions are at times on target. So our goal must be to continually improve the system, though we may fall short of the perfect system.

That will not be for want of trying, however, and here I return to our untold story. Our court system is not the same as it was five years ago. It is better, and too few people know how it came to be so, and how it will become better still as our progress continues.

The time to celebrate and replicate our successes is long overdue. Together, we must spread the word that courts care about public service and the citizens they serve. We care by ensuring the delivery of justice according to the standards described above.

Upcoming issues of the *Michigan Supreme Court Report* will include a new feature, **Courts CARE**, which will highlight judges, staff, and programs that show courts

**C**aring about: **A**ccountability **R**espect **E**xcellence

Michigan's courts belong to the people and exist to serve their needs. Let's make sure that the people know we understand that fundamental truth.

### Michigan Supreme Court **REPORT**

The *Michigan Supreme Court Report* is published by the Michigan Supreme Court.

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## Court Councils

### Council of Chief Judges holds inaugural meeting

The first meeting of the newly established Council of Chief Judges was held March 16 at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. Chief Justice Elizabeth A. Weaver told the 16-member council she welcomed the council's voice as an important perspective on administrative matters. The council would be helpful in bringing to the forefront the diverse views of judges throughout the state, she said.

Judge Richard Williams, director of New Jersey's Administrative Office of the Courts, gave a presentation to the council on the changing face of leadership in the judiciary.

The first business of the council will be to consider the recommendations made by chief judges during their meetings with the Chief Justice last year. Three working committees have been formed to address the recommendations.

**Chief Judge Training Committee:** Judge Faye Harrison; Judge Fred Mulhauser; Judge Robert Ransom; Judge Susan Reck; and Judge Michael Sapala.

**Communication, Technology and Statutory Conflicts Committee:** Judge Richard Bandstra; Judge James Fisher; Judge Steven Ford; Judge Brian Levy; and Judge Susan Vandercook

**Chief Judge Rule and Intermediate Sanctions Committee:** Judge Marylin Atkins; Judge Leo Bowman; Judge Alton Davis; Judge Barry Howard; Judge Michael Nolan; and Judge Joseph Schwedler.

The committees were scheduled to meet in late April and early May to begin their work. It is expected that the committees will seek the assistance of judges outside of those on the council as they consider the recommendations made last year by chief judges throughout the state. The committees will report their progress to the full council when it meets on June 21.

### Intergovernmental Advisory Council expanded for new term

In 1998, the Michigan Supreme Court Local Intergovernmental Advisory Council was established for the purpose of fostering better relationships between trial courts and local government. Following 1996 legislative court reform, relationships between trial courts and their funding units were unsettled by changes in employer status and budget requirements. In recognition that the public is best served through shared responsibility and cooperative relationships, the Local Intergovernmental Advisory Council was created to advance that goal.

The council meets with the Chief Justice on a regular basis to discuss areas of concern. The council also suggests strategies for resolving disputes between trial courts and local government that encourage communication and cooperation.

Originally established as a 17-member council of county commissioners, county clerks, county administrators, mayors, and members of municipal and township boards, membership of the council was expanded in January 2000 to include representatives of the judiciary and the ex-officio positions of the presidents of the Michigan Association of Counties and the Michigan Association of County Clerks. The newly appointed 28-member council met April 7 in Lansing. *See side bar for list of council members.*

### Local Intergovernmental Advisory Council

Patti S. Bender  
County Clerk, St. Joseph

LouAnn Bluntschly  
County Clerk, Lenawee

Michael C. Brown  
County Admin., Barry

G. William Caddell  
County Clerk, Oakland

Jon C. Campbell, Chairman  
Allegan County Board of Comm.

K. Ross Childs  
County Admin., Grand Traverse

Gerald O. Corkin, Chairman  
Marquette County Board of Comm.

David W. Geiss  
Councilman, City of Taylor

Michael A. Guido, Mayor  
City of Dearborn

Peggy Haines, President  
MI Assoc. of County Clerks

John C. Hart, Supervisor  
Harrison Township

Ken Hess  
Commissioner, Tuscola County

Kim A. Higgs  
County Admin., Allegan

Bert Kortess, Chairman  
Clare County Board of Comm.

John E. LaBelle, Chairman  
Livingston County Board of Comm.

Robert J. Lacinski, President  
MI Association of Counties

Jeffrey Martlew, Chief Judge  
29th Circuit Court

Edward Mason, Chairman  
Saginaw County Board of Comm.

Edward H. McNamara  
County Executive, Wayne

James K. Mitchell, Mayor Pro Tem  
City of Farmington

Walter Moore, Mayor  
City of Pontiac

Julie A. Nicholson, Chief Judge  
52nd District Court

Anne B. Norlander  
County Clerk, Calhoun

Robert Oosterbaan  
County Admin., Ottawa

Leonard M. Peters, Chairman  
Eaton County Board of Comm.

Carmella Sabaugh  
County Clerk, Macomb

Richard Shaw, Judge  
Barry County Trial Court

James A. Stewart  
Controller, Eaton County

## Notice of Public Hearings

### Supreme Court to hold public hearing in Marquette

The Michigan Supreme Court will hold a public administrative hearing in Marquette on May 25 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. The hearing will be held in the Marquette County Courthouse, located at Third Street and Baraga Avenue.

The administrative matters on the agenda for this hearing are:

**98-34:** Proposed Amendment of Rule 17 of the Rules Concerning the State Bar of Michigan, and Proposed Adoption of the Minimum Continuing Legal Education Implementation Rules - Published at 459 Mich 1209-1219. *Whether to adopt a program of mandatory continuing legal education for lawyers in Michigan.*

**95-20:** Proposed State Bar Rule 18 (Lawyer Certification Plan) - Published at 450 Mich 1204- 1208. *Whether to approve a process for certifying specialty areas in the practice of law.*

**99-25:** Proposed New Rule 3.106 and Proposed Amendment of Rule 4.201 of the Michigan Court Rules - Published at \_\_\_ Mich \_\_\_. *Whether to adopt rules regulating the practices of court officers with regard to how writs are executed.*

**96-59:** Proposed Amendments of Subchapters 7.300 and 9.100 of the Michigan Court Rules - Published at \_\_\_ Mich \_\_\_. *Whether to provide for permanent disbarment of attorneys.*

**99-64:** Proposed Amendment of Canon 7 of the Michigan Code of Judicial Conduct - Published at \_\_\_ Mich \_\_\_. *Whether to prohibit appointment of attorneys by judges for a two year period after the date the lawyer made a political contribution.*

**98-50:** Proposed Amendment of the Michigan Court Rules for the Family Division of Circuit Court - Published at \_\_\_ Mich \_\_\_. *Whether to adopt certain rule changes which would be applicable to the operation of the family division of circuit court.*

**99-45:** Amendments to Subchapters 3.700 and 5.900 of the Michigan Court Rules - Published at \_\_\_ Mich \_\_\_. *The Court is seeking public comment on court rules recently adopted regarding the procedure applicable to minor personal protection orders.*

### Guidelines for addressing the Court at public hearings

To address the Court on administrative matters for each public hearing, individuals are asked to provide notification to

**Michigan Supreme Court Office of the Clerk**  
**PO Box 30052**  
**Lansing, MI 48909**

as soon as possible in order to obtain a guaranteed place on the agenda, or may appear that morning to request to be heard as time allows.

Those wishing to address the Court are advised that each speaker will be allotted no more than three minutes. The time limit will be enforced. Any questioning of the speakers by the Court will take place after the time for addressing the Court has expired.

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## Notice of Public Hearings

### Supreme Court to hold public administrative hearing in Lansing

The Supreme Court will also hold a public administrative hearing in Lansing on June 15. This hearing, to take place in the Supreme Courtroom, will begin at 9:30 a.m. and adjourn no later than 11:30 a.m.

Administrative matters on the agenda for the Lansing hearing are:

**96-59:** Proposed Amendment of Subchapters 7.300 and 9.100 of the Michigan Court Rules. Published at 461 Mich 1273 (2000). *Whether to provide for permanent disbarment of attorneys.*

**97-56:** Proposed Amendment of Rules 2.402 and 3.101 of the Michigan Court Rules. Published at 461 Mich 1220 (1999). *Whether to adopt proposed revisions of the rules regarding use of communication equipment and garnishment after judgment.*

**98-46:** Proposed Amendment of Rule 9.130 of the Michigan Court Rules. Published at 461 Mich 1206 (1999). *Whether to amend this rule to include a cross-reference to MCR 3.602, the court rule governing statutory arbitration.*

**98-50:** Proposed amendment of subchapters 3.200, 5.900, and 6.900, and Rule 8.110 of the Michigan Court Rules. Published at 461 Mich 1222 (1999). *Whether to adopt certain rules and to amend others that would be applicable to the operation of the family division of circuit court.*

**99-14:** Proposed Amendment of Rule 2.512 of the Michigan Court Rules. Published at 461 Mich 1211 (1999). *Whether to amend this rule, which requires a jury to “announce” its verdict in a civil case, to comport with MCR 6.420(A), which says simply that a jury must return its verdict in open court in a criminal case.*

**99-18:** Proposed Amendment of Rule 8.120 of the Michigan Court Rules. Published at 461 Mich 1215 (1999). *Whether to amend the rule governing legal training programs to include defenders’ offices.*

**99-23:** Proposed Amendment of Rule 2.119 of the Michigan Court Rules. Published at 461 Mich 1210 (1999). *Whether to have a statewide rule that would require an attorney to certify, in the request for a hearing on a motion, that the attorney has contacted the other side to obtain concurrence in the relief sought and that concurrence has been denied.*

**99-26:** Proposed Amendment of Rule 2.107 of the Michigan Court Rules. Published at 461 Mich 1219 (1999). *Whether to allow for service and filing of pleadings and other papers by fax.*

**99-27:** Proposed Amendment of Rule 2.310 of the Michigan Court Rules. Published at 461 Mich 1216 (1999). *Whether to lengthen from 14 to 28 days the time for a party to respond in writing to a request under MCR 2.310(C)(2) for production of documents and other things, or for entry on land.*

**99-59:** Amendment of Rule 7.104 of the Michigan Court Rules. Published at 461 Mich lxxvii (2000). *Whether to retain the amendment regarding appeals from the Michigan Parole Board that was made in light of recent statutory changes.*

**99-62:** Amendment of Chapter 5 and Rule 8.303 of the Michigan Court Rules. Published at 461 Mich xcvi (2000). *Whether to finalize interim rules in Chapter 5 of the Michigan Court Rules relating to the new Estates and Protected Individuals Code.*

**99-64:** Proposed Amendment of Canon 7 of the Michigan Code of Judicial Conduct. Published at 461 Mich 1228 (1999). *Whether to prohibit appointment of an attorney by a judge for a two-year period after the date the attorney made a political contribution to the judge’s candidate committee.*

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### Michigan’s One Court of Justice web site

Visit the Court on the web for additional information on public hearing agenda items.

[www.supremecourt.state.mi.us](http://www.supremecourt.state.mi.us)

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## Fine Point

# National drug court month established; Michigan gears up for more drug courts

*By Margie Good  
Management Analyst  
Administrative Services Division, SCAO*

**M**ay has been designated as National Drug Court Month in recognition of the practitioners and participants who make drug courts work, and the significant contributions that drug courts make in reducing drug usage and crime. Nationwide, there are now more than 700 drug courts currently operational or in planning stages.

A drug court is a specialized court calendar or docket designed to reduce recidivism in alcohol and drug abuse among nonviolent offenders. It is also designed to improve chances for rehabilitation through intensive judicially supervised treatment; mandatory periodic drug testing; and use of graduated sanctions and other rehabilitation services.

*See NATIONAL DRUG, next page*

## Changeover

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### APPOINTMENTS:

**Biernat, James M. Sr.**, appointed to C16, Macomb County, effective April 14, to succeed Lido Bucci, deceased.

**Bill, Gregory D.**, appointed to C03, Wayne County, effective May 1, to succeed Sharon Tevis Finch, retired.

**Cooper, Michael K.**, appointed to Otesgo Probate Court, effective March 24, to succeed Richard Liedel, retired.

**Davis-Vaughan, Linda**, appointed to D41B, Macomb County, effective April 10, to succeed James Scandirito, resigned.

**Feeney, Kathleen A.**, appointed to C17, Kent County, effective March 27, to succeed Robert Benson, retired.

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### RETIREMENTS:

**Cooley, Wendy L.**, 36th District Court, City of Detroit, retired effective May 1. Judge Cooley began her service with the court in January 1985.

**Finch, Sharon Tevis**, 3rd Circuit Court, Wayne County, retired effective May 1. Judge Finch began her service with the court in January 1982. She also served the 36th District and Common Pleas Court beginning in 1975.

**Micklow, Patricia L.**, 96th District Court, Marquette County, will retire effective June 1. Judge Micklow began her service with the court in January 1987.

**Russell, Michael T.**, 24th District Court, Wayne County, will retire effective June 1. Judge Russell began his service with the court in August 1979.

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### DEATHS:

**Alexander, George W.**, retired 15th District Court Judge, passed away February 23. Judge Alexander served the court from January 1975 until August 1991.

**Boyle, Robert E. A.**, retired 45th Circuit Judge, passed away October 1, 1999. Judge Boyle served the court from January 1971 until October 1980.

**Ziem, Frederick C.**, retired 6th Circuit Court Judge, passed away March 22. Judge Ziem served the court from January 1960 until December 1986.



## National drug court month established

*Continued from previous page*

Advocates indicate that drug courts have successfully demonstrated that nonviolent offenders with substance abuse problems who receive comprehensive assistance have been able to increase periods of abstinence and reduce rates of relapse, re-arrest and incarceration. General Barry McCaffrey, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, is a strong advocate of drug courts.

The National Association of Drug Court Professionals holds an annual training conference for judges, prosecutors, court staff, treatment providers, probation officers, and others interested in drug courts. This year the conference will be held June 1-3 in San Francisco.

In Kalamazoo, the Women's Drug Court Program provides participants with counseling, court supervision, urinalysis screening, transportation, day care, case management, and administrative support. Of the 112 women who had completed the program at the time of reporting, 11 (10%) have been arrested for committing new offenses. Most programs also report that a substantial percentage of participants who come into drug court programs unemployed and on public assistance have become employed while in the program.

The Kalamazoo Drug Court Programs have been named by the Justice Department and the National Association of Drug Court Professionals as a Mentor Drug Court site. For further information, contact Connie Laine, Kalamazoo Circuit Court, at 616/383-8839.

Prior to October of 1999, there were 10 drug court programs in various stages of planning and development in Michigan. These programs include: Berrien County Adult Drug Court-St. Joseph; Kalamazoo Women's Drug Court; Kalamazoo Men's Drug Court; Kalamazoo Juvenile Drug Court; 36th District Court-Detroit; 56th District DUI Drug Court-Charlotte; 61st District Court-Grand Rapids; 37th District Court-Warren; Macomb Juvenile Drug Court-Mt. Clemens; and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians-Sault Ste. Marie.

The Michigan Legislature provided funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the Michigan Drug Court Grant Program for FY 1999-2000. The program, administered by SCAO, is designed to provide funding assistance to jurisdictions to help with planning and implementation of new drug courts, expansion of existing drug courts, and continuation funding for drug court programs no longer eligible to receive federal funding for their drug court program.

A continuation grant was awarded to the Kalamazoo Men's Drug Court Program, which was the only court in 1999 to exhaust federal funding. In addition to the continuation grant, nine planning grants, four enhancement grants, and two implementation grants were awarded.

### Drug Court Resources:

For more information on drug courts, contact Margie Good at SCAO. PH: 517/373-5596. [goodm@jud.state.mi.us](mailto:goodm@jud.state.mi.us).

### Drug Courts Program Office

US Dept. of Justice  
202/616-5001  
[www.ojp.usdoj.gov/dcpo](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/dcpo)

### Drug Court Clearinghouse

American University  
202/885-2875  
[www.american.edu/justice](http://www.american.edu/justice)

### Nat'l Drug Court Institute

703/706-0576  
[www.ndci.org](http://www.ndci.org)

## ADMINISTRATIVE MAILINGS

*Items appearing here will be sent under separate cover.*

**Michigan Department of Treasury Form 2818(8-97);** formerly M-1745- Filing a Request and Writ for Garnishment Michigan Income Tax Refund/Credit (MC52 6a/95). You may wish to provide this to small claims parties when you provide form DCI-84, Collecting Money from a Small Claims Judgment.

**LEIN News Bulletin:** March/April 2000.

**Employment Opportunities:** SCAO Program Representative, Foster Care Review Board; (2) SCAO Technical Services Representative; and (4) SCAO Programmer Analysts.

**Brochure, The Source:** Published by the Criminal Justice Information Center, Michigan State Police, February 2000 issue 00-1.

## Administrative Update

### Election campaign reminder issued to judges, staff

As judicial elections approach, judges and court staff are reminded that court employees may offer their personal services to members of the Judiciary to assist in campaigning for their reelection only during non-work hours. Requesting or requiring court employees to “volunteer” for such activities is inappropriate and unfair to the court employees involved.

Employees have the right to participate in political activities on their own time and as volunteers, unless local personnel policies direct otherwise, but those employees should not be enlisted or coerced into such activity. Judges should not permit court employees to engage in political activities in violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

### New public act lifts review panel requirement for circuit courts

According to a new public act signed by Governor Engler, circuit courts will no longer be required to appoint a review panel before ordering tests for HIV, HBV, or HBC infections.

Public Act 37 of 2000 became effective March 17 and amends the Public Health Code at MCL 333.5205.

### Solution offered for courts disclosing LEIN information in PPOs

Judges, court administrators and court clerks should carefully review PPO procedures to ensure the appropriate use of the Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN). Disclosure of any LEIN information to any non-criminal justice agency is a misdemeanor [MCL 28.214(3)]. Some courts are violating this when they request a LEIN lookup from local law enforcement to include a respondent’s current address on a PPO. Once the petition is completed and returned to the petitioner, the LEIN information is being disclosed to the petitioner on the paperwork.

To avoid this situation, judges may consider signing a PPO without the respondent’s address. The court can then request the LEIN information and include the address of the respondent for service on the copy going to law enforcement for entry into LEIN, and not on the petitioner’s copy. Because the court may now have a document in its file with non-public information, the information from LEIN must be marked non-public and must be pulled prior to anyone accessing the rest of the file, which is a public record.

### Children’s ombudsman describes services to family division

The Office of the Children’s Ombudsman will be distributing brochures that describe the services of that office to the family division of all circuit courts within the next month. The Office of the Children’s Ombudsman was established by Public Act 204 of 1994. Under this Act, the Ombudsman investigates complaints about children in Michigan’s child welfare system. They have authority to investigate complaints about children under the supervision of protective services, foster care, and adoption agencies. They do not have the authority to investigate complaints that exclusively involve child custody, visitation, divorce, child support, guardianships, school problems, juvenile delinquency, law enforcement, attorneys (except adoption attorneys), judges or court orders.

For additional information, contact Karen Quinn, Michigan Children’s Ombudsman, PO Box 30026, Lansing, MI 48909. PH: 517/373-3077 or 800/642-4326. WEB: [www.state.mi.us/dmb/ombudsman](http://www.state.mi.us/dmb/ombudsman).



## Administrative Update

### Jury publications available from American Judicature Society

The American Judicature Society (AJS) has published *A Guide for Jury Deliberations*, developed under a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, US Department of Justice. The guide is intended for jurors before they begin the task of deliberating to assist them in organizing their discussions. The ultimate goal of the guide is to produce more efficient deliberations and greater satisfaction and confidence on the part of jurors. Judges, court administrators and jury staff are encouraged to review the guide for use in their courts.

Also available is *Behind Closed Doors: A Resource Manual to Improve Jury Deliberations*. It provides the background and rationale for the jury guide mentioned above, including relevant research, survey and case study results. To order, contact: AJS, 180 N. Michigan Ave., Ste. 600, Chicago, IL 60601-7401. PH: 312/558-6900. WEB: [www.ajs.org](http://www.ajs.org).

### Repeat offender processing affected by “under advisement”

The SCAO knows of no authority in statute or court rule for taking traffic matters under advisement. Traffic cases that fall under the Repeat Offender umbrella result in confiscation of the offending vehicle’s metal license plate and the issuance of a paper plate. The vehicle owner is not eligible to obtain a new plate until such time as the court adjudicates the case by the entry of a finding of guilt, a dismissal, or a nolle prosequi, and abstracting this action to the Dept. of State. Taking a matter “under advisement” prevents the owner from obtaining a new metal license plate.

Offenses taken under advisement are not reflected on driving records. Therefore, this practice, which may also be known as deferred sentence, dismissal with costs, diversion, audit, held in abeyance, or administrative review, destroys the accuracy and integrity of Michigan’s driving records, upon which trial courts, the Dept. of State, and others rely.

**Requirement to abstract:** Judges, clerks, family division referees, and district court magistrates should refer to the following statutes that outline the court’s statutory obligations on the processing and reporting of traffic offenses.

MCL 257.732; MSA 9.2432 provides that within fourteen (14) days (or immediately for some offenses) after a conviction, juvenile disposition, or entry of a civil infraction determination the clerk of the court shall prepare and immediately forward an abstract to the Department of State. Definitions of “conviction” and “civil infraction determination” are in the Michigan Vehicle Code and include the following:

MCL 257.6b: “Civil infraction determination” means a determination that a person is responsible for a civil infraction by one of the following:

- (a) An admission of responsibility for the civil infraction,
- (b) An admission of responsibility for the civil infraction, “with explanation”,
- (c) A preponderance of the evidence at an informal hearing or formal hearing on the question under section 746 or 747.
- (d) A default judgment, for failing to appear as directed by a citation or other notice, at a scheduled appearance under section 745(3)(b) or (4), at a scheduled informal hearing under section 746, or at a scheduled formal hearing under section 747.

MCL 257.8a: “Conviction” means a final conviction, the payment of a fine, a plea of guilty or nolo contendere if accepted by the court, or a finding of guilt for a criminal law violation or a juvenile adjudication or probate court disposition for a violation that if committed by an adult would be a crime, despite whether the penalty is rebated or suspended.

## ADMINISTRATIVE E-Mailings

**02/01/00:** Abstract Processing to Department of State; Mandatory Safety Belt Laws  
**02/03/00:** MSC AO 2000-1 and Order 96-59  
**02/07/00:** Repeat Offender Q&A  
**02/08/00:** 1999 PAs 191, 200 re Parole Board Appeals, Appt of Appellate  
**02/09/00:** Grant funding; Judicial Leave/Usage Reports  
**02/18/00:** MSC Order 99-36  
**03/01/00:** SCAO E-mail to Voyager Accounts - New Chief Judges  
**03/01/00:** DOS 1999 Timeliness of Abstracts Report  
**03/10/00:** MSC Order 99-25; Amendments to Safety Belt Law eff 3/10/00  
**03/13/00:** Grant funding; Reporting EPIC, revised; SCAO approved forms 1999 PA 200  
**03/15/00:** SCAO Admin. memo 2000-01, Prison Condition Lawsuits (PAs 147&148)  
**03/17/00:** SCAO approved forms PA 200  
**03/23/00:** MSC Orders 99-00, 99-47, 99-48a, 99-48b; Adm Policy Memo 2000-02; Judicial Leave/Usage Report  
**03/27/00:** MJI Program-CJ/Ct Admin: Effective Leadership  
**03/28/00:** EPIC checklists; Internet project computer salvage; Supreme Court Order  
**03/30/00:** SCAO approved EPIC forms; NACM Call for Papers  
**03/31/00:** Implementing Trial Court Case File Mgmt Standards; MSC Order ADM 00-17  
**04/03/00:** 1999 PA 200 - Opinion & Order of 3/31/00  
**04/06/00:** SCAO Admin 2000-04 Revised Probate Fee, Admin. Distribution Schedule  
**04/13/00:** MJTC-2001 Competitive Grant  
**04/20/00:** Caseworker Guide to CS Enforcement and Military Personnel  
**04/26/00:** MSC Orders 99-66, 99-22 and 99-05

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## Administrative Update

### Two trial courts recognized in web site competition

The 46th Circuit Trial Court and the Washtenaw County Trial Court web sites recently received recognition in a top 10 web site competition sponsored by Justice Served, an organization of court management and justice experts providing management services for court systems throughout the nation.

Top honors went to the 46th Circuit site, located at [www.circuit46.org](http://www.circuit46.org). It provides web users with online case information, payment and reporting systems, online friend of the court address changes, customer satisfaction surveys, attorney schedules, and much more. The 46th Circuit Trial Court, under the leadership of Chief Judge Alton T. Davis, is a pilot project of the Michigan Supreme Court.

The Washtenaw County Trial Court was also recognized as one of the top ten web sites. The site, located at [www.co.washtenaw.mi.us/depts/courts/index.htm](http://www.co.washtenaw.mi.us/depts/courts/index.htm), was honored for its e-mail based electronic filing system, searchable opinion database and its calendar system. This site was also among the top 10 web sites in the Court Technology Conference 6 competition held last fall. The Washtenaw County Trial Court, under the leadership of Chief Judge Timothy P. Connors, is also a pilot project of the Michigan Supreme Court.

## Grant Update

**Byrne Memorial Formula Grant Program:** Grant applications for the Byrne Memorial Formula Grants were submitted to the Office of Drug Control Policy by the following courts: 9th Circuit Court-Family Division (Kalamazoo); 26th Circuit Court-Family Division (Alpena, Alcona, Montmorency, and Presque Isle Counties); 54-A District Court-Probation Department (Lansing); 61st District Court (Grand Rapids); and Ogemaw County Probate Court (West Branch). Grant award announcements will be made in July.

**Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA):** SAMHSA has announced that public agencies and nonprofits are invited to apply for grants under the Community-Based Practice/Research Collaboratives (PRC) implementation program. Funding will provide 10 grants of up to \$400,000 for three years. The funding is designed to increase interaction among key community-based substance abuse stakeholder entities. The application deadline is June 13. For information, contact Frances Cotter at 301/443-8796.

**Michigan Justice Training Commission (MJTC):** Information regarding the MJTC Competitive Grant program was e-mailed to all Chief Judges and Court Administrators on April 13. Grant workshops are scheduled for May. The application deadline for grants is July 31. Refer to the e-mail information for further information.

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## Administrative Update

### Domestic Violence Board sponsors training academy for educators

The Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board (DVPTB) is piloting a Domestic Violence Train-the-Trainer Academy. The academy will be held September 25-28, at McCalmly Plaza, in Battle Creek. The Michigan Judicial Institute, along with the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, the Michigan State Police, and the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan are collaborating with the DVPTB in developing the curriculum for the academy.

The academy's purpose is to enable participants to effectively deliver current domestic violence information to law enforcement personnel in their communities. Academy participants will have the opportunity to:

- build strategies for overcoming trainees' resistance to domestic violence training;
- update their knowledge about domestic violence laws and procedures;
- learn about state-of-the art research concerning assailant tactics, progression of violence, and community response;
- examine the complexities of responding to the victim's use of violence;
- design, develop, and implement learning-centered training that fosters change in the community;
- network with other professionals to exchange ideas and share resources; and,
- facilitate training group dynamics and manage problem participants.

Academy enrollment is limited to 36 participants from the court system, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices, and domestic violence service provider programs. In selecting participants, preference will be given to those applying as members of a cross-professional team of no more than three individuals from a community. Court system applicants should have significant experience with cases involving domestic violence and a firm understanding of Michigan's domestic violence laws, particularly with respect to criminal cases and/or personal protection actions.

Applications to the academy may be obtained by contacting Sarah Heuser at the DVPTB, 235 S. Grand Ave., Ste. 506, PO Box 30037, Lansing, MI 48909. The application deadline is June 15. The application must be accompanied by a \$150 registration fee, which will be returned to any applicants not accepted this year. Accommodations at McCalmly Plaza are available at \$89/night plus 9% tax. Meal and materials costs are included in the registration fee. MJI has obtained a limited amount of grant funding to reimburse some of the expenses of court system applicants who are accepted to the academy; information about the availability of such funding will be provided upon acceptance to the academy.

For further information about the Academy, contact Sarah Heuser at the Violence Against Women Training Institute of the DVPTB, 734/428-1993.

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## May

24	Region III and IV Circuit Court Judges Meeting Doherty Hotel, Clare	25	Supreme Court Public Administrative Hearing County Courthouse, Marquette
24	Valuing Cultural Diversity Holiday Inn, Marquette	31	Region II District Court Judges Doherty Hotel, Clare
24-26	MI Association of District Court Probation Officers Annual Conference Mackinac Island		

## June

1-2	MJI — Chief Judges/Court Administrator Seminar McCamly Plaza Hotel, Battle Creek	13	Michigan Family Support Council Ingham County Building, Lansing
2	MI Association of Court Mediators Board Meeting Catholic Family Services Mt. Pleasant	14-15	MJI — Court Support Training Holiday Inn-Fairlane, Dearborn
		15	Friend of the Court Association Cheers, Mt. Pleasant
1-3	Nat'l Association of Drug Court Professionals San Francisco, CA	20	MJI — Valuing Cultural Diversity Four Points Hotel, Saginaw
		20	Michigan Judges Association University Club, East Lansing
6	MJI — Valuing Cultural Diversity Holiday Inn West, Lansing	21	Council of Chief Judges Kellogg Center, East Lansing
6-7	MJI — Regional Judicial Seminar Sheraton Hotel, Lansing	26-28	MJI — Faculty Development Sheraton Hotel, Lansing
12-15	MJI — Juvenile Law I Detroit College of Law, East Lansing		



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